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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4776

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY

RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY

RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY

RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY

RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY

RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY

INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 5424

RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 7753

RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 2911

RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 5941

RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 9232

RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0017

RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2955

RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 6659

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 6324

RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 001667

SIPDIS

STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - U.S. ASEAN POLICY AND NORTH
KOREA-MYANMAR RELATIONS

¶1. LEAD STORIES: Front-page items on Thursday morning included
yesterday's total solar eclipse visible from some of Japan's
southern islands and a draft DPJ policy manifesto for the August 30
general election.

¶2. "U.S. Policy of Attaching Importance to Southeast Asia Becoming
More Pronounced" The business-oriented Nikkei wrote (7/23): "The
Obama administration has clearly demonstrated its policy of
attaching importance to Southeast Asia. In the face of China's
growing presence, the Obama administration is aiming to maintain its
influence in the region by reviewing U.S. relations with ASEAN,
which became distant under the former Bush administration. The U.S.
also appears to be looking at the creation of a coalition of nations
encircling North Korea in order to head off a nuclear and missile
crisis by courting friendly nations in Southeast Asia."

¶3. "U.S. Concerned about Transfer of Nuclear Technology to Myanmar"
The liberal Tokyo Shimbun stated in a correspondent's report from
Phuket, Thailand (7/23): "Secretary of State Clinton expressed
strong concern about military cooperation between North Korea and
Myanmar by saying in a press conference that the U.S. is concerned
that high-tech weapons and nuclear technology might be transferred
from North Korea to Myanmar. The 'rapprochement' of the two
internationally-isolated countries in order to maintain their
respective power systems is likely to become a new point of concern
in the creation of a security system in Asia."

ZUMWALT